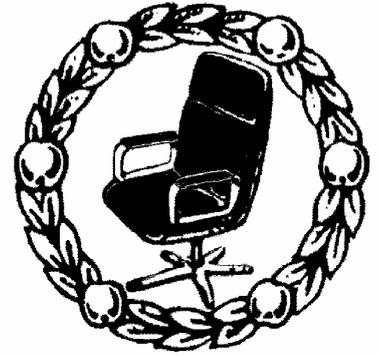


# pass



The Quarterly Magazine of the Mastermind Club

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Awestruck in the Andes: Macchu Picchu

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Phillida Grantham

## Club Shopping

Please note that prices quoted below no longer include postage and packing. If ordering insignia to be delivered by post, **please add £3 per item**. Send a cheque with your order, payable to the Mastermind Club, to:

Phillida Grantham

	£
<b>Jackets</b>	
Reversible Mistral (S, M, L)	23.95
Weatherwise (M, L)	19.95
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<b>Ties</b>	
Maroon (multi-logo)	7.00
<b>T- shirts</b>	
White on dark navy (L, XL, XXL)	6.00, or 3 for £10.00 (special offer)
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Oatmeal (L)	15.00
Red (L, XL)	15.00
<b>Jewellery</b>	
Stick pins	6.00

## A Message from the President

Alan Blackburn

In **pass** issue 2008/3, I explained that rising costs made it necessary to increase the Club's annual subscription from £7, at which it had been held since 1984, to £12.

However, both the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer have reported that a significant number of members have not amended their Standing Orders and have again paid £7.

If this applies to you, may I again urge you to amend your Standing Order **and** to pay the difference by cheque, payable to the "Mastermind Club", sent to the Membership Secretary as soon as possible.



## Membership matters

Peter Chitty, Membership Secretary

I hope that all of you had a very happy festive season.

This first item is **VERY IMPORTANT** to all those members who pay their subscription by Standing Order. As the President has explained, 148 members did not change their subscription from £7 to £12 by using the Standing Order Form enclosed with **pass** last year, although some members changed their S/O by going to their bank themselves.

To get around this problem it is proposed that those who have paid only £7 should send me a cheque for £5 to cover the balance of the new subscription rate. I will send them a new S/O for £12 to commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010, or of course they can deal directly with their bank, but if **you** do decide to do this, **please let me know**.

We have two new members who joined late last year they have both taken part in the current series: they are Neil Phillips and Mark Samuelson. All the members of the Club will, I know, wish them both a long and happy association with us.

## NEW MEMBERS

1016 Mr Neil PHILLIPS 28 Dempsey Drive Rothwell KETTERING Northamptonshire NN14 6LA

1017 Mr Mark SAMUELSON 14 Lynn Road LONDON SW2 9LA

I hope that we will meet in Blackpool in April.

## Time to Build an Igloo?

Ken Emond, Editor

**A**lready we are into February and the season of snowy, icy blasts from a frozen continent. I hope you have not been too badly affected by the recent bad spell of weather. In London, as many of you will have heard, the entire public transport system effectively ground to a halt on 2 February, and many people, myself included, enjoyed a ‘Snow Day’. I didn’t attempt to walk to work (it turned out it would have been a fruitless exercise anyway, because the building was unable to be opened), but I did have a very pleasant walk round Camberwell, suitably muffled up against the elements.

There has been quite a flurry of discussion on the news and in the papers about London’s inability to cope with a few inches of snow, and I know from my own personal experience that some other parts of the UK regularly have to carry on daily life while battling against such adversity every winter, let alone places like Stockholm, Helsinki and Moscow, who were said to be laughing at our pathetic efforts to keep going. But I must add that I was more impressed by the arguments that any city facing a “once-in-twenty-years” event would have similarly struggled, with sufficient quantities of snow falling in a short period of time, especially overnight when the roads and rails were less likely to be able to be cleared by the volume of ongoing traffic.

So where does this leave us on climate change? More extremes of weather to come? When we get to Blackpool in April for the Club reunion, will it be time to build an igloo, or sweltering heat unheard of in April, or enough rain to float us off out into Morecambe Bay? Is it just memory playing tricks again, to think that when I was young the seasons were clearly defined – yes, we had snow in winter; yes we had rain in autumn; yes, we had heat in summer; yes, it was blowy in spring? I have always thought that some of the names of the French Revolutionary Calendar (brumaire, pluviôse, nivôse, ventôse etc) were so wonderfully evocative, but did they ever reflect reality? Now they seem to make so much less sense every year...

**Note:** For all members, new and old alike, may I repeat my usual refrain. Submissions for **pass** are very welcome, and may take the form either of short notices or letters for the Letters, news and views section, or longer articles. There is no restriction on the subject matter – it doesn’t have to be to do with quizzing or the particular subject of your appearance on Mastermind – just anything that you think will be of general interest. Submissions may be edited or may need to be held pending space, but it is always better to have more in hand than can be printed. We also always look in particular for contributions to the back page quiz for which we have now had eleven different setters in the past twelve issues. All submissions are particularly welcomed by email to [kene@britac.ac.uk](mailto:kene@britac.ac.uk), but can also be sent in hard copy instead to Dr Ken Emond, 108 Havil Street, Camberwell, London, SE5 7RS.

## Letters, news and views

*From Hazel Prowse*

### Good news for the squeamish

Lord Darzi gave a talk on engineering in surgery to the Royal Academy of Engineering on 20 October 2008. He is a professor at Imperial College, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health and famously rushed to help a fellow peer who had collapsed in the House.

He summarised the history of surgery from the Roman false leg of 300BC (lost in the London bombing), through the major achievements in the nineteenth century (anaesthetics, pathology and aseptic techniques) to the first use of MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) at Nottingham University Hospital in 1967.

Trauma arises firstly during access to the site, when a lot of damage can be done, even before a small hole-in-the-heart job. The motto was “Big Hole = Big Surgeon”. Then there is the operation itself. Now, with new techniques we can have “minimal-access surgery”, replacing 10 inch cuts with those of perhaps only one. Psychological trauma is also reduced – the advantages are smaller scar, less pain, cheaper, shorter stay in hospital, early return to work, earlier mobilisation and fewer infections. And patients are happier.

However, it is not so easy and the instruments are different. Using computers we have “master-slave” manipulators that mimic a surgeon’s hand movements; these “hands” are much smaller and are not limited to two...

Another trauma comes from putting patients on heart-lung machines, which is done because otherwise the heart keeps pumping all the time. A “motion compensation system” allows the eyepiece to move in sync with the heart and (with some engineering) the surgeon can think he is operating on a stationary heart. Further innovations mean he can be barred from illegal moves, useful in dangerous areas such as where the pelvic nerve is very close to the prostate. There are also natural orifices that give access if the equipment is small enough, such as the fibre-optic “snake” that carries illumination, vision, biopsy, etc. In France, a gall bladder has been removed via the vagina.

As in other highly technical areas, simulators are gaining ground, and medical students do not have to learn on live patients. Cardio-vascular patients can go home and have their condition monitored post-op by wearing a complex earpiece; the skin behind the ear is thin and there is little pigmentation. They can go home and live normal lives while doctors can track their condition from afar.

In the Q&A session I asked about fail-safe processes and manual over-rides should the computer crash and the surgeon lose visibility. (I did not mention the blank screen in the middle of the presentation, but the audible shudders behind me said it all!). A good question, and the matter is considered. The cultural changes in the NHS will come with newer recruits, but we must reduce the excessive number of trips made by patients to all the different parts of the system. Artificial and historic boundaries must be removed.

Other matters raised were on neuro-surgery (the skull does not move about on the operating table) and better hip replacement, following more accurate measurements made robotically.

The following week I returned to the Royal College of Surgeons to visit the museum, curious to find out about the Anatomical Tables; early versions of BMI indices, like log tables and tide tables? No, they were not columns of figures, but planks of wood, 6 foot by 2, on which were carefully laid out all the arteries from a human corpse. There were, of course, lots of skeletons and cream-coloured pickled body parts, human and animal. Worth a visit to Lincoln’s Inn Fields, and its free.

[*Ed.* I can heartily endorse the interest of a visit to the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons – last autumn it made for a very instructive Saturday to compare and contrast the Clockmaker’s Museum, the Hunterian Museum and the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, all of which are within a mile or so of each other and none of which takes very long to go round. I definitely count among the squeamish, myself – some of the pickled body parts and instruments preserved at the Hunterian are rather alarming...!]

# Walking Back to Happiness

(L.A.H. 2012 Briefing Notes No. 4 – the Walk)

Lance Haward

Triumph in the sprint relay or the Bobsleigh, pursuit cycling, three-day event and Finn-class yachting, these moments have been as ephemeral as they were unpredictable. In recent times, only rowing seems to have come within Britain's province of natural expectation, only here have we **commanded** the world's attention, where Americans or Russians, Kenyans and Ethiopians, Cubans and even weight-lifting Iranians and Turks, have all managed to establish a proprietary standing in some event or other, particularly in the arena of track and field, such that any momentary flicker in their permanent dominance is enough to cause turmoil in the media and bring down a president or two, of either the national or federation kind.

Which is probably why we turned our attention some thirty years ago to an Olympic competition which can hardly be considered athletic at all, more a study in entertainment in circus mode. Less the exploitation of strength, speed or agility than of a devious and mischievous ingenuity. Of such intrusions of the fairly alien into the business in hand, the incursion of an imaginative Portia to upset the smooth transaction of legitimate business partakes. Alas, poor Shylock. Alas for all the *bona fide* milers and hammer-throwers interrupted by the untimely arrival in the stadium of a racer **walking!!** Or so they claim – alas for genuine John Walker, his limelight stolen by **runners** (there's the point.)!

And it is to that that we were once obliged to descend. Obligated by the failure of Ovett and Coe to have been born earlier.

We can only hope that a nation which has now amassed a sufficiency of credibly orthodox success will avoid the recidivism of "walking" its way to the podium again.

What, you don't believe my inverted commas? You insist in your touching faith that those 20 and 50 K events (I believe I have the eccentric French measures right!) are what they proclaim? But how gullible can one be?

Put the thing on video next time and play it in freeze-frame, and you will observe that not a single one of the competitors fails to break the rules : both feet are invariably off the ground at the same time. The fact that the judges, in pursuit of continued employment, studiously disregard this wholesale contempt for the supposed definition of the thing, job-security apart has something to do, once again, with that business of supplying the ordinary, ungifted viewer with a performance which he can contemplate as lying somewhere within the boundaries of his own day-to-day activities. We may not all be able to sprint any longer, or get a discus up to the necessary escape-velocity or human frame to seven feet, but dammit! We can most of us still walk.

Even if not in the professional ostrich-manner. That waggle is a thing which no respectable seeker after legitimate glory, and no one with any aspirations to a quiet life within polite society, should ever affect.

# Annual General Meeting 2009

Notice is hereby given that the thirty-first Annual General Meeting of the Mastermind Club will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool, on Sunday 5 April 2009 at 10.45am.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 30th AGM, Cardiff, 6 April 2008 (published in PASS, 2008:2)
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report
5. PASS
6. Election of Club Charity for 2009-2010\*
7. President's Report
8. Membership Secretary's Report
9. Insignia
10. Annual Functions 2009 and beyond
11. Magnum Competition
12. Mugnum Competition
13. Any Other Business

\* **Note to Item 6:** If you wish to propose a Club Charity please inform the Secretary in writing of your proposal by Monday 16 March 2009.

Gavin Fuller, Secretary  
18 January 2009

# MASTER QUIZ 2009

## Gavin Fuller introduces the Round 2 questions

Last year's Magnum was a gratifyingly (from a question setter's view) close contest and it is always a pleasure to challenge the assembled brains with the contents of my fevered imagination, as is putting together the companion set to Phillida's Round 1 Questions. As usual with my set there is no theme, just 100 questions which I would hope are at a level to entice you to have a go. David Cowan added a new name to the rather small collection of Magnum winners last year and it is always good to see new people stepping up to the mark, so why not have a go? Even if you cannot make the Annual Reunion there is always an *in absentia* prize to go for, so why not give it a try and see how you fare?

### **Instructions**

Round 2, as usual, has two entries. Head your first paper "U" for UNSEEN, and answer the questions in your own time. When you have finished please sign the entry as being your own work, but of course should you by chance come across any other answers feel free to add them. Head another sheet "R" for REFERENCE and check, alter or expand your "U" entries should it be necessary, quoting your sources if you wish.

Put your name and membership number on each sheet of paper, and on the first sheet add your full address. 80% of the marks are awarded for the "U" entry and 20% on the "R", with the latter as ever not being obligatory. Please note that all decisions made by Phillida and myself are final, no correspondence shall be entered into by either of us about the questions and answers, and any nitpickers will be EXTERMINATED!!!

### **Address for Round 2 Entries**

Gavin Fuller, 50 Dollis Park, Finchley, LONDON N3 1BS  
Telephone: 020 8349 1087 (home), 07875 384778 (mobile)  
Email: [gavin\\_fuller@hotmail.com](mailto:gavin_fuller@hotmail.com)

### **Closing date: 25 March 2009**

I look forward to your entries, and putting the top 9 to the test again at the reunion. Must wait to see what I've got in store for you this year...

1. Which verse drama opens "To begin at the beginning; It is spring, moonless night in the small town, starless and bible black"?
2. Which sport starts with a Face Off?
3. Quito is the capital of which country?
4. What is a tarn?
5. Which capital city has a name that translates as Blackpool?
6. Who designed the famous K2 and K6 Telephone Boxes?
7. What colour is the rock Azurite?
8. What name is given to fear of the number 8?
9. What instrument was played by the jazz musicians Count Basie, Thelonius Monk and Jelly Roll Morton?
10. The historian Hugh Trevor Roper fell foul of which historical hoax?
11. Which Swedish botanist laid the foundations of the binomial system of classification of flora and fauna?
12. Speaking of which, which butterfly under this system has the name *Pieris Brassicae*?
13. Which *Coronation Street* character was run over by a Blackpool tram?
14. Who at the age of 14 won the Wimbledon Girls' title in 2008, the first British winner for 24 years?
15. Who is the father of Viscount Severn?
16. In the term ro-ro ferry, what is ro-ro short for?

17. Which infamous artwork was signed "R. Mutt 1917"?
18. Which of the services is nicknamed "The Andrew"?
19. What is the primary home ground of Lancashire County Cricket Club?
20. Which comedian has adopted the persona of The Pub Landlord?
21. Launched in 2004 and played on a 21x21 square board, how many tiles are used in the board game Super Scrabble?
22. Which hymn has been banned by Southwark Cathedral due to it being "not in the glory of God"?
23. In Mathematics, if the average is the sum of a group of numbers divided by the quantity of them, what is the term for the middle number of this group if lined up in numerical order?
24. Which artist can be seen in the mirror in the painting best known as *The Arnolfini Wedding*?
25. According to Mohammed, which heavenly personage dictated the Koran to him?
26. Which marine mammal has a distinctive single tusk that can reach lengths of up to 3 metres?
27. Which soup has a name derived from the Tamil for pepper-water?
28. Which radioisotope is used by archaeologists for dating organic objects?
29. The first public library in Britain was constructed by the Guildhall in London by the executors of which famous Lord Mayor?
30. In Greek mythology, where did the nymphs called oreads live?
31. Which mammal has the Latin name *Lepus europaeus*?
32. Which musical instrument was invented by Bartolomeo Cristofori in 1709 by substituting a hammer action for the plucking action of the harpsichord?
33. Which famous menthol lozenges are made by Lofthouse of Fleetwood?
34. Ken Russell's acclaimed documentary *A Song of Summer* was about which composer?
35. David Tennant took time off from saving the universe to appear in two Shakespeare plays in 2008. Which two?
36. What is the stage name of the double act formed by Ian and Janette Tough?
37. What would you use SD or XD cards for?
38. Which current statesman has been nicknamed L'Hyperprésident, Le Président Bling Bling and Le Lapin Duracell?
39. An informal price list against which MP's Additional Costs Allowances can be claimed has been nicknamed after which department store?
40. What is the name of Gaudí's unfinished cathedral in Barcelona?
41. What are Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slytherin?
42. Which word comes from the German for substitute; although common usage has this substitute as somewhat second-rate?
43. In which periodical did *Cartoon No. 1* by John Leech appear in 1843?
44. According to Robert Burns, what "gang aft agley"?
45. Who played Mark Antony in the 1953 film version of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*?
46. What does Brontomancy use to tell the future?
47. In the world of medicine, what does CPR stand for?
48. The Oud is an Arab version of which musical instrument?
49. What would you do with feuilles de brick?
50. Who, on seeing a commemorative stone for one of his predecessors engraved "Laid by the Poet Laureate", remarked "Every nice girl's ambition"?
51. What was Filippo Brunelleschi's most famous work of architecture?
52. Triggered by the playing of the country's song in the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest, in which country did the Carnation Revolution take place?
53. Where are the National Archives based?
54. Which motorway links Ross-on-Wye and the M5?
55. What is the name of the famous castle in South Ayrshire built by Robert Adam in 1777-90 for the Earl of Cassilis?
56. Which significant post in the Channel Islands is held by Michael Beaumont?
57. The ptarmigan is a member of which family of birds?
58. Which football club won its first major trophy for 58 years in 2008?
59. Which band had Top Ten hits in 1969-70 with *Living in the Past*, *Sweet Dream* and *Teacher/The Witch's Promise*?

60. Which is the smallest of the Great Lakes?
61. Which company makes the Aquos series of televisions?
62. In which sport did E Morse play for Oxford from 2005-2008?
63. Theodora, a former actress, was the wife of which Byzantine Emperor?
64. Who fought a duel with Ivan Skavinsky Skavar, leading to the death of both of them?
65. What colour are the flowers of the poisonous plant Lily-of-the-Valley?
66. The appellation Entre-Deux-Mers is something of a misnomer as it actually lies between two rivers. Which rivers?
67. Which 2008 film, derived from a stage musical, became the biggest-grossing of all time in the UK?
68. Which Marriott Edgar monologue, made famous by Stanley Holloway, is set in Blackpool?
69. Christy Moore, Donal Lunny, Liam O'Flynn and Andy Irvine were the original members of which legendary Irish folk group?
70. Which Italian Duchy was ruled by the Farnese from 1545-1731 and then by the Bourbons to 1799 and again from 1847-59?
71. The loss of water vapour from the surface of a plant is known as what?
72. With reference to the 2008 Olympics, what is the significance of 9.69 seconds and 19.30 seconds?
73. What is the name of the Roman soldier who is traditionally said to have smote Jesus with his spear at the Crucifixion?
74. In what sort of films did the cartoon couple Joe and Petunia appear in the 1970s?
75. What was the name of Jane Seymour's character when she became a "Bond Girl", and in which film in the series did she appear?
76. When Henry VIII was looking for a new wife after the death of Jane Seymour, which newly-widowed Princess of Denmark, famously painted by Holbein, was a candidate, but declined to marry him on the grounds she would only do so if she had two heads, one of which would be at his disposal?
77. Raven, Bridegroom, Soldier, Lion, Persian, Courier of the Sun and Father were the seven grades of initiate in which ancient religion?
78. Which metal is used to denote a 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary?
79. Based in New York, what is the full name of the press agency AP?
80. As a rule, how many turrets were there between each milecastle on Hadrian's Wall?
81. Which composer is best remembered for his "Roman Trilogy" of *Fountains of Rome* (1916), *Pines of Rome* (1924) and *Roman Festivals* (1928) along with the ballet *la Boutique Fantastique*?
82. In the Old Testament Book of Judges, who is the only female Judge?
83. Which country is the primary home of Garifuna music?
84. In which month do the Leonid meteor showers occur?
85. Which football club fell foul of Victoria Beckham when it tried to trademark its nickname?
86. John Part, who rejoices in the nickname Darth Maple, has been a world champion in which sport?
87. In photography, what term is given to the ratio of the diameter of the aperture to the length of the lens?
88. The whisky Old Pulteney is distilled in Scotland's most Northerly mainland whisky distillery. In which fishing town is this?
89. The Cassowary is native to which continent?
90. The British Lawnmower Museum can be found in which Lancashire seaside town?
91. KUPI Luwak, harvested from the faeces of Indonesian jungle cats, is a type of what?
92. What is someone suffering from if they have galactorrhoea?
93. What was founded by A C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada in 1965?
94. In medieval times, what did Sumptuary Laws regulate?
95. Which Terry Nation drama series was "reimagined" for the worse by the BBC in 2008?
96. The BBC is also pointlessly remaking *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin*. Who is stepping into Leonard Rossiter's shoes as the title character?
97. What connects Ecce Homo, Regardless of History, Monument, Alison Lapper Pregnant and Model for a Hotel?
98. From which Norfolk town does the band The Gavin Fuller Experience come?
99. What is the penultimate letter of the Greek alphabet?
100. Which actor, when asked for a suggested epitaph for himself in 1925, replied "I would rather be in Philadelphia"?

# Awestruck in the Andes (Part Two)

*Bernard Howell*

[In the last issue of **pass** we left Bernard at Tiwanaku, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Bolivia. This time, we continue the journey to Lake Titicaca and beyond]

That evening we were booked to have dinner and be entertained at a “folklore” restaurant in La Paz and next day we were due to leave the city, mid-morning, and head for our next hotel on the shore of Lake Titicaca. On our way to the “folklore” restaurant Rosario informed us of an alteration to our plans because of local political developments. It appeared that a recent prominent politician, who had been on the run from Bolivian justice - due to his mismanagement of the nation’s finances, which, strangely enough, coincided with the dramatic improvement in his own - had been granted political asylum in the USA, no doubt, because of his impeccable right-wing credentials. The Bolivian people were outraged and were planning political demonstrations, culminating in the burning down of the American Embassy in La Paz. This was all due to take place on the following day starting at 6am. Rosario had been advised that if we did not leave the city before 6am the following morning, we would be unable to leave at all, as all major roads would be blocked. There was also the possibility that if we stayed, we might be mistaken for Americans or even identified as America’s most loyal allies. So she had arranged for us to have an early breakfast at the hotel so that we could be on the road by 5.30am. The folklore evening had to be curtailed, though we still had time for dinner - at which I enjoyed my first taste of llama meat - and some dancing from brightly dressed young men and women, re-enacting, through dance, events from the nation’s mythology - which meant absolutely nothing to we Brits. It was, nonetheless, entertaining.

So, the following morning at 5.30, our tour bus stole quietly out of the city in the dark and headed for Lake Titicaca. We did see some evidence of local populace activity which, it was assumed, was concerned with erecting barricades, as we abandoned the capital, but nobody tried to interfere with our departure in any way. The journey took about two hours, during which the sun rose, flooding the *altiplano* with daylight and illuminating the snow-capped peaks of the distant *cordillera*. It was an impressive sight which was lost on most of the tourists who were trying to catch up on their lost sleep. On the down side, it was extremely cold and the bus seemed to have no heating. By the time we arrived at *Hotel Las Balsas* we were frozen and the bus’s windows were iced up both inside and outside. Though we had arrived too early, we were, nonetheless able to check into our rooms and attempt to get warm.

This was the least luxurious of all of the hotels on the tour and, in truth, could even be described as quite basic in some essentials. It had, however, by far the best view of all of the hotels on the tour and possibly the best view of any hotel I have ever stayed in. The hotel stands on the shore of Lake Titicaca amongst some other buildings which probably, together, constitute a village, though, if that is the case, I never learned its name. My room was on the third floor and the huge window faced out onto the lake. I would have been inclined to describe the view as breathtaking, but having just climbed three small flights of stairs, with a heavy suitcase, I did not have sufficient breath left to spare any to be taken away by the view. In fact, I recall panting quite energetically for what seemed like several minutes before achieving some kind of normal rate of breathing. Lake Titicaca is a little higher than La Paz. At 3,810 metres (12,500 feet) above sea level, it is the highest navigable lake in the world. Being 108 miles in length and up to 40 miles wide, in places, Lake Titicaca is also the largest lake in South America. Such statistics are not without interest, but I am no more a geographer than I am an archaeologist. What struck me about Lake Titicaca was the stunning beauty of the views it afforded. At this part of the lake many of the views are enhanced by the distant, snow-capped Andean peaks which had been so dramatically illuminated by the rising sun earlier that morning. The unruffled surface of the lake, reflecting the cloudless blue sky through an atmosphere which, though thin in oxygen, was completely uncontaminated by the pollutants of everyday life, achieved an effect of the utmost serenity and well-being. The almost total absence of sound contributed to the “other-worldliness” of the experience. I recall no sounds other than the occasional cry of a local bird. For some reason, I was surprised that there should be birds (other than condors) at this altitude, but the lake teems with fish and where there are fish there are usually birds to feed upon them.

Later that morning our party set out in two motor boats belonging to the hotel and crossed the lake to visit Suriqui Island. Reynaldo, who accompanied us throughout the Bolivian part of the tour, told us that Thor Heyerdahl had visited Suriqui and entrusted the building of his reed boat Ra (the second of that name) to the natives. The first Ra had been built somewhere in North Africa *and* had not survived the journey it was meant to demonstrate. The second Ra, was however a success and the

natives of Suriqui are very proud of their contribution to this expedition. In the souvenir shop/museum there are many photographs recording Heyerdahl's visit and the building, at various stages, of Ra. As we made our way back to the boats, we were besieged by what must have been all of the children of the island. They were openly asking for money. There were no obvious signs of poverty in their appearance - quite the opposite, in fact - it is likely that they just believe that the primary purpose of tourists is to give them money.

There was nowhere to have dinner that evening, other than the hotel which, though basic in some respects, provided an excellent meal. I chose the fish option, which consisted of two types of fish indigenous to Lake Titicaca. There was a white fish called a Kingfish which was very nice and red fish, a type of trout, which was delicious. The food was washed down with a couple of bottles of Bolivian beer, which is excellent. The dining room also faced out on to the lake and we were able to watch the sun, apparently sink beneath its surface, lighting up the sky in a glorious explosion of colours, as we ate. It had been a long day; I had watched the sunrise over the *altiplano* and had now seen it set over Lake Titicaca. Tomorrow would be our last day in Bolivia and we expected to be crossing back into Peru in mid-afternoon.

The lake is naturally divided into two parts, known as the small lake and the large lake, though it is all one lake. What marks the division between these two parts is the Strait of Tiquina, where the lake is at its narrowest. We crossed the 800 metre strait in a small ferry boat while our tour bus crossed on a much larger wooden raft. The opposite bank is still in Bolivia but very close to the Peruvian border. We then headed for our final Bolivian destination, the lakeside town of Copacabana for a farewell Bolivian lunch. Reynaldo pointed out to us, *en route*, a large island in the lake. This was *Isla del Sol* (Island of the Sun) which plays an important part in Inca mythology. The first Inca was born here and his father was the Sun. Each successive Inca (and the name "Inca" only applies to the ruler of the people we tend to think of as "the Incas") was seen as divine by his people.

Copacabana is so called because the Spaniards were unable to pronounce the original *Aymara* name of *Kota Kahuana*, which, apparently means "view of the lake". Its main claim to fame is the "Black Virgin of Copacabana", a much-revered wooden representation of Our Lady of Copacabana, the patron saint of Bolivia. This is housed in the very impressive basilica which dominates the town's main square. The town shares its name with the most famous beach in Rio de Janeiro (and possibly the most famous beach in the world). This, however, is not mere coincidence. The story I had heard, from our Rio city tour guide in 2001, was that, at some time in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a priest from Rio de Janeiro, made a pilgrimage to Copacabana to see this famous Virgin. He obtained a replica, brought it back to Rio and placed it on that city's largest beach, which thereafter became known as Copacabana beach.

After lunch, at which I had some more of the local trout, we headed for the border crossing, where we had to say "Adios" to our guide Reynaldo and to Julio, the bus driver who had negotiated those steep, narrow streets of La Paz with ease. Once through the checkpoint, back in Peru, we boarded our new bus and met our new local guide, Eduardo. It was a short journey to the lakeside city of Puno where we were to spend the night. On the way, Eduardo drew our attention to the clouds and said that it would snow during the night ahead, though it had not snowed there for several years. It was to be another early start, to fit in a visit to the Uros Islands before we headed for our next destination, the city of Cusco. Sure enough, as we got up for breakfast, the snow was still falling and quite thickly, at that.

The Uros Islands are also referred to as the "floating islands" and can be found in Puno Bay, a part of Lake Titicaca quite near to the city of Puno and a boat ride of about thirty minutes duration from our hotel. Apparently, when the Spanish were completing their conquest of this area, with their customary savagery and brutality, the local *Aymara* people fled onto the lake in their reed boats. To continue to avoid the Spaniards, the *Aymara* stayed on the lake and lived their lives afloat. Over the years, their reed boats evolved into reed islands which they anchored to the lake bed, making them floating islands which were permanently moored. Why they still live on floating reed islands today, is a bit of a mystery, unless, of course, it is a matter of economics. Their whole way of life appears to be geared up to meeting the demands of the tourist industry.

We arrived at the first island we were to visit in the early morning, just as the snow stopped falling. The islanders came out of their homes - which are windowless huts made, of course, from reeds - and greeted us enthusiastically. We were then split into several small groups, each group being invited into a different hut, where we could see how the islanders lived. My group visited the home of Raul and his wife Mata. They had a *Niña* called "Nellie" and a *Niño* whose name I do not remember. Their reed home consisted of one room only. I remember a large double bed which may, or may not, have been made from reeds. A few more items of reed furniture and a television which was powered by a car battery. All their clothing is very brightly coloured woven textile, presumably the wool of the alpaca, an animal which is found in abundance in the Puno area. When we emerged from their homes, each family set up their own stall in order to sell us some souvenirs.

We were to visit one more island, the capital of the Uros islands, and we undertook that short journey in two reed boats. Before setting off from the first island, however, the young ladies of the island sang a farewell song to us in *Aymara* and then sang "Row, row, row your boat" in English, as we sat in the reed boats and gazed at them in wonderment. Shortly after our arrival back at the hotel in Puno, we boarded the tour bus for the next stage of our tour.

The journey from Puno to Cusco took about five hours, during which we were treated to some spectacular Andean scenery, saw llamas and alpacas grazing in their natural environment and stopped at La Raya, which, at 4,313 metres (14,150 feet) above sea level, was the point of highest altitude on the entire holiday. Our tour bus pulled off the road into a sort of lay-by, where we could alight and stretch our legs. In the valley just below the road there is a station on the railway which runs between Puno and Cusco; we stopped for only a few minutes but it was long enough to watch a Cusco-bound train arrive and depart. After La Raya, there was a gradual descent to the city of Cusco, which is a mere 3,400 metres (11,150 feet) in altitude.

Cusco was the capital of the Inca empire and its name, in *Quechuan* means 'navel' - it was believed to be the navel of the world. It is said to have been built in the shape of a puma, though this is not obvious to anyone standing in the middle of the city. I had been fairly unenthusiastic about the national capitals of Lima and La Paz but I have to say I liked Cusco very much. It would not be true to say of Cusco, as I have said of Lima, that parts of it could be any large city. Cusco - or at least that part of it which I saw - definitely had its own character throughout. The main square is not imposing and self-important as many main squares tend to be, it is informal and friendly. The people were not the usual cosmopolitan mix which are to be found in national capitals, on the whole, they had the facial features of the *Quechuan* people native to the city. They wore their brightly coloured clothing not for the sake of the tourists, but because this was their normal way of dressing. On our last day in Cusco, a Sunday, I watched various sectors of the local populace, such as nurses, schoolchildren and the local military, parade through the main square of their city, having earlier attended mass in the Cathedral. Apparently this happens every Sunday and adds to the feeling that the *Cusqueñas* are a genuine community.

The city of Cusco is well-placed for visits to the major historical sites of the Inca period of Peruvian history and, under the guidance of our final tour guide, Selina, we spent a few days exploring these. The fortress of Sacsaywaman (often spelled Sacsahuaman) lies just to the north of Cusco and forms the head of the puma, in which shape the city is said to have been built. The fortress contains amazing examples of the Incas' skills in working with stone. How the stones were transported to this site, given that the Incas had no knowledge of the wheel and no horses, is one of the many enduring mysteries which remain unsolved to this day. Was it effective as a fortress? I should point out that when the Spaniards attacked it in 1536, though heavily outnumbered, they defeated the Inca forces who were forced to flee to the Sacred Valley. This was more likely due to the superior weaponry of the Spaniards than any shortcomings in the effectiveness of the fortress. Whatever its qualities as a fortress, Sacsaywaman, today, remains a magnificent edifice and well worth a visit.

About an hour and a half's drive from Cusco is the Sacred Valley of the Incas, which we visited on our second day in the region. Perhaps I am being fanciful but, descending by road into the valley I felt we were entering a place of special significance. I do not know why this valley was considered "sacred" but there is a dark, brooding grandeur about the mountains through which the valley runs, suggesting a spiritual and mysterious quality, which I am unable to define. I believe I would have felt this even if I had not known that this valley was referred to as "sacred", but there is the suspicion that I only felt this because I was aware of the valley's name. Once inside the surprisingly wide valley, as our tour bus sped along the road at the side of the River Urubamba, I was struck by the beauty of its internal scenery, which, whilst being in harmony with the brooding mountains, seemed much more cheerful and friendly.

Our first stop was another Inca fortress, called Ollantaytambo. This is famous for its enormous terraces, which were built to increase agricultural production in order to feed the beleaguered Inca army in its continued resistance to the Spaniards. We climbed gradually to the top of this site and our efforts were rewarded with further examples of Inca stone-work and some fabulous views back down the Sacred Valley. After lunch we visited the nearby - and justly famous - market town of Pisac. This is, in effect, an enormous area of souvenir shops. I recall seeing only the kind of market stalls that sold Andean handicrafts, either in the form of brightly coloured textiles and clothing, or of local musical instruments, such as the pan-pipes, the Andean flute and the charanga - which is like a small guitar but with a proportionately much longer fingerboard. Perhaps part of this market does cater for the needs of the local populace - I did not see it all - but, based on what I remember, I felt that, like the "Witchcraft Market" in La Paz, it existed primarily for the purposes of tourism.

Our visit to Machu Picchu was an all-day excursion which required us to leave Cusco at about 7.30am. We travelled by tour bus, back to Ollantaytambo, where we awaited the train that would take us to Machu Picchu. It is possible to travel all the way from Cusco to Machu Picchu by rail, but this takes much longer as there are many stops between Cusco and Ollantaytambo. It took about ninety minutes for the train ride from Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes, the small market town at the foot of the

mountain upon which Machu Picchu is situated. The final ascent to the site is undertaken in small buses, of about thirty seats. The zig-zag road up to the site is called the "Hiram Bingham Highway", named after the American archaeologist who is credited with the discovery of Machu Picchu in 1911. It is, of necessity, a narrow road which climbs steeply and precipitously, and caused no little alarm amongst the more nervous members of our party.

How can the first sight of Machu Picchu be adequately described? It is such a well-known view, familiar from TV programmes, travel literature and holiday brochures - and yet these are no substitute for being there in person. It was a truly breath-taking experience and this time I did have sufficient breath left to have it taken away. I saw exactly what I expected to see yet there was an overwhelming sense of awe on first beholding the reality. I remember being similarly awestruck when I first saw the famous view of Rio de Janeiro from Corcovado, seven years earlier, though it was exactly as I had expected it to be. This feeling must be, at least, partly due to the realisation that not only has a long-held ambition just been achieved, but that it has lived up to, and probably surpassed, all expectations. This was certainly the case with the first view of Machu Picchu.

Selina conducted us through the major areas of interest, supplying, in her running commentary, what historical background was available. Though Machu Picchu was built as recently as the fifteenth century - that is, shortly before Columbus discovered the New World - very little is known about its background or purpose. This is because, though the Inca civilisation was in many ways more advanced and refined than that of the Spaniards who overthrew it, they had no system of writing. There are no written records of the pre-conquest period and no hieroglyphics waiting to be deciphered. The historical background was not my primary interest anyway. Much of this could be obtained from books later on, if I felt sufficiently interested to undertake further research. My interest lay in seeing the place, wandering amongst its ruins and experiencing its atmosphere. We had ample opportunity to do just this in the afternoon, following a buffet lunch in the on-site restaurant.

It was a bright sunny day, though clouds occasionally obscured the peaks of the nearby mountains. This effect tended to enhance rather than spoil the view, adding to the sense of magic and mystery which permeates the whole area. It occurred to me, as I wandered around the ruined city that, even if Machu Picchu had never been built, the surrounding area was of such incredible beauty, it would have been worth visiting for its own sake. The inclusion, in this enchanted landscape, of the well-preserved ruins and terraces of Machu Picchu, transforms an area of outstanding natural beauty into what is, without doubt, one of the wonders of the world. To have been there, in person, was a truly wonderful experience, and a privilege.

It was with some reluctance that we had to leave Machu Picchu but there remained the lengthy return journey to Cusco after we had zig-zagged back down the "Hiram Bingham Highway". Machu Picchu was the last place of interest to be visited on this tour and it was a fitting culmination to what had been an excellent holiday. It remained only to fly from Cusco to Lima on the following day and to fly home from Lima, the day after that.

Now that I have been to, and explored, Tiwanaku and Machu Picchu, two more major travel ambitions have been achieved and can be ticked off the list. Tiwanaku was a fairly recent ambition, but I can not remember a time when I have not wanted to visit Machu Picchu. The fulfilment of that long-cherished dream has made me very happy but, at the same time, has left a kind of void on the "wish-list" of life. True, there are many more places in the world - and they are not all in South America - which I hope to see in person, but, together with the places I saw on my first South American holiday, Machu Picchu was always the most important. It has now become a place which I would quite like to revisit at some point in the future, and probably never shall. The fact that I no longer yearn to make my first visit there seems very strange.

South America remains a place of particular fascination to me and, now that I have seen some of the major sights on my "list", it would be nice to explore some other areas which are also of interest. Though I have made two visits to the continent, I have still not seen the River Amazon and its rain forests, and I hope one day to explore the rugged landscapes of Patagonia, and much else besides. That is for the future. For the present, it is enough that my memory remains haunted by the dramatic grandeur of the Andes; by the serene beauty of Lake Titicaca and by the spectacular ruins of long-vanished civilisations.



Reed boat, Uros Islands, Lake Titicaca



Terraces at Ollantaytambo



Cusco, Cathedral and Main Square



Macchu Picchu

# In the Best of Health

Timothy Robey

Cutting in a zigzag fashion  
With a special pair of shears  
Obviates the need for stitching  
Since there are no fraying fears.

Butterfly saw her lieutenant  
At the centre of her life,  
But the hero, on returning,  
Had acquired another wife.

Sent off on their murderous mission  
With a loud bucolic cheer  
Gentlemen chase after foxes  
In their scarlet-coloured gear.

Gin with Angostura bitters  
May be colourful, and yet  
Elephants may be forthcoming,  
Elephants one can't forget.

If conjunctivitis patients  
Can't, alas, see eye to eye,  
They may miss that unnamed colour  
Which they are distinguished by.

Engines suffer preignition  
If the octane number's low:  
Lack of hydrocarbon branching  
Is the reason it is so.

Brighton in the nineteen thirties —  
Would-be gangsters please take stock.  
Ida, Rose and Colleoni  
Blend the colour of its rock.

## Blue Poem

Timothy Robey

She has doubtless read Endymion  
And the odes of Horace too;  
Algorithms never irk her  
For her legs are clothed in blue.

This is not a glass container  
Holding wine or come what may;  
It's the only type of bottle  
Which will ever fly away.

When through Vienna Woods it sparkled  
Waltzing words were Danube true;  
Gadgets, fripperies and travel  
Mean that it's no longer blue.

With its dative bonded ligands,  
Hexaaquacopper(II)  
Is an octahedral complex;  
Incidentally coloured blue.

Marriage for this bearded monster  
Always ended in despair,  
Since he drowned successive partners,  
Ugly, passable or fair.

Sheep and cows are idly straying  
In the meadow and the corn —  
One might re-establish order  
If that boy would blow his horn.

Thicker glass within a prism  
Darkens white light into blue.  
Newton, nineteen centuries later,  
Quickly showed this wasn't true.

Sapphire, bluejohn, gorgonzola  
Oxbridge, Lionel, Badge and moon,  
Peter, collar, blood and Tory,  
Murder, ribbon and Lagoon.

# Prize Crossword (2008:4) Solution

by *Gadfan*

	T	O	L	L		B	O	U	N	D	A	R	Y	
S		V		A		E		N		E		I		P
P	R	E	D	I	C	T		C	L	A	U	S	A	L
A		N		R		R		H		T		E		A
D	O	C	U	D	R	A	M	A		H	A	I	T	I
E		O				Y		I		T		N		C
	R	O	B	I	N	S	O	N	C	R	U	S	O	E
		K		N						A		T		
D	E	E	P	F	R	O	Z	E	N	P	E	A	S	
A		D		E		F		A				N		D
N	I	C	E	R		F	O	R	E	J	U	D	G	E
I		H		T		B		W		A		A		F
E	D	I	F	I	C	E		I	N	F	E	R	N	O
L		P		L		A		G		F		D		E
	A	S	B	E	S	T	O	S		A	L	S	O	

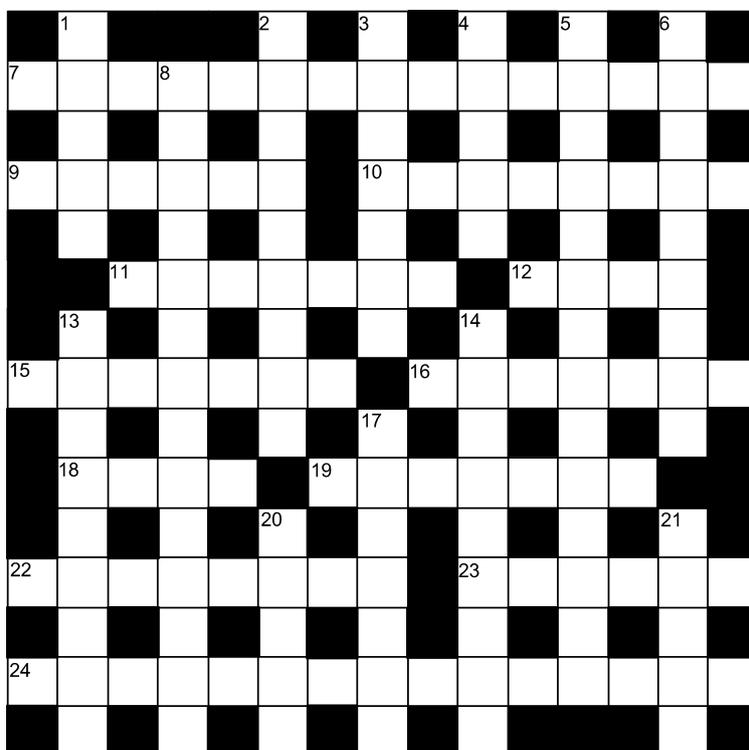
Crossword 2008:4 seemed to be one of the hardest to date. How do I know these things? Firstly, I was told as much, and secondly, it elicited an unusually small harvest of only six entries, and a deafening silence from several of the “usual suspects”. 1 across seems to have been something of a stumbling block. The clue, “Gathering on the road ...”, was intended to have inspired the answer, TOLL. Congratulations to those who did solve that clue correctly.

The small entry made it no easier to judge a tie-break winner. The solution for which a clue was sought was DOCUDRAMA. After much deliberation, Tony Dart’s “Drum a coda madly – but play it straight!” just edged it over Margery Elliott’s “A cord Maud tangled on stage? It’s true!”. A £10 book token should have found its way to Tony. Don’t spend it all in the same book shop!

I hope Crossword 2009:1 will prove a little more accessible. For the inevitable tie-breaker, entrants are invited to improve on the clue for 3 down, chosen mainly because it may well have the capacity to defy the anagram specialist. Entrants should submit solutions, each complete with tie-breaker clue, either by e-mail to [gadfan@btinternet.com](mailto:gadfan@btinternet.com), or, supporting the Royal Mail, by post to David Edwards, 26 Lady Meadow Close, Denstone, Uttoxeter, ST14 5EY to arrive by 30 April.

# Prize Crossword (2009:1)

by *Gadfan*



## ACROSS

- 7 Not yet a fair time to deliver deferential invitation (3,6,6)  
 9 Odds on immature pupil's telling lie (6)  
 10 Suddenly appear to escape (5,3)  
 11 Medication lacking power to put personal freshness problem behind (7)  
 12,18 In no way right under the rump (8)  
 15 She and I commonly take a stroll (7)  
 16 Notice direction to back door (7)  
 18 See 12  
 19 Beating in the cells (7)  
 22 In a sentence, order garden furniture (8)  
 23 Wizard at first nervy about conjuring up a dragon (6)  
 24 Drew line around poor player's injury (6,9)

## DOWN

- 1 In surfacing keep a gasping mouth wide open (5)  
 2 Very strong dialect: incomprehensible but not to be mocked, we're told (9)  
 3 One could easily weep and wail over little (7)  
 4 Source of drama in letters about condition of cattle (5)  
 5 One volunteers unsolicited advice as rugby types dine with club's support (4-4,6)  
 6 Erection of baroque copper turrets (9)  
 8 Dean juggles with ball ... Finish on the whole conclusive ... A Supreme Goal! (2-3,3,3-3)  
 13 Criminal making foul, foul noise (9)  
 14 Solution for patient who has tummy upset with my not being there ... (9)  
 17 ... sitting in sofa (the addled fool) (7)  
 20 Irishman in a temper (5)  
 21 Piano worth £1000 (5)

Gadfan

# York Quiz Answers and Result

Steve Hayes

Thanks to all who took part in the York Quiz, even though the *raison d'être* was ended by scarcity of affordable room rates! The results and answers are given below, and the £10 book token has duly been despatched to Paul Emerson. I was grateful to the entrants who commented on the wide-ranging subjects I used and who described the quiz as very interesting. The scores were as follows:

Paul Emerson	29
Mike Formby	28
Raymond Kahn	27.5
Susan Leng	27
Ann Leaney	26
Margery Elliott	20

Answers:

1. St Peter
2. Guy Fawkes
3. Betty's Tea Rooms
4. Steve McClaren
5. Edward III (to Philippa of Hainault)
6. Robinson Crusoe (the opening line)
7. Dick Turpin
8. Joseph Hansom
9. Doncaster's St Leger meeting
10. Rosemary James
11. William Etty
12. Fulford and Stamford Bridge (half mark for each)
13. Marston Moor (1644)
14. John Barry and Judi Dench (half mark for each)
15. The new railway station
16. Newcastle United
17. Constantine the Great becoming the new Roman Emperor
18. Margaret Clitherow
19. Alcuin
20. Brigadier Gerard
21. Kirkgate
22. Frederick, son of George III
23. James Wolfe
24. Carpets (the floods regularly cover the bar to a depth of several feet)
25. W H Auden
26. Cliffords Tower
27. Bishopthorpe Palace
28. The Duke of York (who became George VI)
29. John Goodricke
30. Pope John Paul II

# Home Sweet Home

Patricia Cowley

Some of these houses are real, some are imaginary – but who lives/lived most famously in them? Answers should be submitted by 30 April to Patricia Cowley, 17 Mount Pleasant, Sunnyside, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 4DT. Please mark the envelope “QUIZ”, and I am upping the prize to a £15 book token...

1. Rosings
2. Notley Abbey
3. Chatsworth
4. 221b Baker Street
5. Compton Wynyates
6. Wildfell Hall
7. 48 Doughty Street
8. The small house at Allington
9. Mount Vernon, PA
10. Dorneywood
11. 23 Railway Cuttings, East Cheam
12. Gatcombe Park
13. Abbotsford
14. Chartwell
15. Cold Comfort Farm
16. Tel-el-Amarna
17. A tree in the Hundred Acre Wood
18. Renishaw
19. Manderley
20. Hartfield
21. Sissinghurst Castle
22. 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington D.C.
23. Green Gables
24. The Old Vicarage, Grantchester
25. 244 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Turtle Bay, New York
26. Kelmscott Manor
27. Northanger Abbey
28. Near Sawrey
29. Dove Cottage
30. 4 Privet Drive

